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Concl.

database 424 while the content node 406 includes a content controller 408 and a content store 412.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The health check 426 can be either a hardware or software application which provides operational characteristics of an associated content exchange 116. In an embodiment, the health check 426 provides a single indication of content exchange 116 status. The single indication may be a normalized value between zero and one indicating a combination of content exchange characteristics including, for example, a CPU load, a CPU temperature, a number of concurrent connections, and a number of requests a content exchange is facilitating. In an alternate embodiment, the health check 426 could monitor characteristics of a content exchange 116 while running on another content exchange 116, origin server 108 or location.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The aforementioned heuristics can be determined using the health check 330, 426 associated with a particular content exchange 116 or origin server 108. In an embodiment, health check 330, 426 are software applications running on a content exchange 116 and origin server 108 respectively. When queried by the viewer object proxy 504, the health check 330, 426 may provide a CPU load, a CPU temperature, a number of concurrent connections, and a number of requests the content exchange 116 or origin server 108 is currently servicing. In some embodiments, viewer object proxy 504 queries the content object exchange 116 via HTTP to retrieve server health check heuristics. It should be noted, however, that one skilled in the art would recognize many mechanisms for accessing server health heuristics including, but not limited to, FTP, NNTP, RTP, RTSP, SHOUT, SMTP, or connecting to the node through a designated port.

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